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### U.S.S. New York memorandum, 1945

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U.S.S. NEW YORK (BB34)

Care Fleet Post Office,  
San Francisco, Calif.

24 February 1945

From: Arnold ORDMAN, Lt.(jg), Signal Officer  
To: Executive Officer  
Subject: Memorandum on Battle Experiences in Bombardment of  
Iwo Jima on 16, 17, 18 February 1945.

1. Use of signal force in spotting gun emplacements.  
By full utilization of signal personnel and optical equipment on hand, the signal force was enabled to spot several gun emplacements which were uncovered during the bombardment. These were reported to gunnery and spotted for them. They proved not to be in our sector. Further observation indicated that a few of these emplacements at least apparently were not taken under fire during the time we were present and may not have been knocked out prior to the landing. In some of these instances the targets may have been visible to the signal bridge, and not to other spotting stations or other ships because of the height of eye and angle of the signal bridge, and the nature of the camouflage.

Recommendations:

1a. That personnel not actually engaged in signal work carry on this spotting activity.  
1b. That where such spots are reported or identified, that either the ship take them under fire or that proper report be made to competent authority so that they be taken under fire.

2. Use of after signal station.

The use of the after signal station for flaghoist and flashing light expedited the flow of traffic which might otherwise have unduly encumbered signal bridge.

3. Necessity of training signal crew in the manning of 40mm mounts.

The bombardment pointed up the danger of casualties among topside personnel.

Recommendation:

3a. That signalmen should receive at least rudimentary instruction in manning the 40mm. mounts on the signal bridge so that they can substitute in the event of casualties to the regular crew.



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4. Pneumatic Tubes to Facilitate Internal Communications.

Unnecessary time was lost in carrying messages sent from the coding room, from the signal bridge to the navigation bridge or the open bridge.

Recommendation:

4a. That a pneumatic tube for carrying messages be installed running from the coding room to the navigation bridge. Also from the signal bridge to the navigation bridge. The latter could be installed easily and would in part obviate the necessity of the former.

Conclusion:

The signal force operated admirably and efficiently during the bombardment making full use of personnel and available equipment.

Arnold Ordman  
Signal Officer